

MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL

# MANAGEMENT UPDATE



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council



DECEMBER 2024





## Directorate Highlights

### Roads

N59 Newport to Derradda Road Project: Tender Assessment is complete with recommendation and approval to award contract requested from TII.

Successful Consultant identified to undertake R315 Crossmolina to Lahardane and R314 Killala Road projects. Application to Dept. of Transport in December to award Contract

### Architects

Castlebar Road (5), Creagh Rd (3), Main St (3), Convent Road (3), Ballinrobe Stage 2 submitted to Dept.

Cheshire Homes, Ballina (70) Stage 2 submission to Dept. Ellison St. Castlebar – Stage 2 to Dept.

### Heritage

2024 County Heritage Plan Projects completed and funding drawn down.

Biodiversity & archaeological heritage projects funded under Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2024 & Community Monuments Fund 2024 completed and drawn down.

Jackie Clarke Collection tender issued for conservation works.

## Dates to Note

**Housing SPC:** 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Heritage - Town Branding & Interpretation Workshop** held in Ballinrobe 05<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## Housing, Roads, Architectural Services & Services Development

TOM GILLIGAN



### Roads

- N60 Breaffy Active Travel and Safety Scheme: CPO confirmed. Detailed design and landowner negotiations progressing.
- N58 Foxford Transport Project: Technical & Environmental consultant to be appointed in Q1 2025.
- N5 Swinford Bypass Safety Scheme: Technical & Environmental consultant to be appointed in December 2024.
- N26 Ballina Bypass Phase 1: Commence Phase 4 statutory processes in Q1 2025.
- Belclare to Murrisk Greenway Scheme: Currently refining the options selection process and selection of preferred option.
- Great Western Greenway Newport Town: Options Selection process concluded. Scheme to proceed to Part 8 planning consent during Q1 2025.
- Active Travel Schemes in Ballinrobe, Achill, Killala and Ballina - in construction
- National Road safety projects at various stages include:
  - N5/R320 Junction Swinford: Design report approved. Proceeding with tender documents.
  - N60 Claremorris to Ballyhaunis at Bekan – Rail Bridge - Part 8 planning application in Q4, 2024;
  - N26 Foxford – pedestrian crossing – Design Report and Road Safety Audit underway with submission to TII in Q1 2025;
  - N17 Lisduff, Claremorris – concrete post & rail fencing retrofit scheme – Contractor has commenced on site.
- R313 Glencastle scheme - land acquisition nearing completion, site clearance / enabling works underway for construction stage;

### Housing

#### HAP & RAS (November 2024)

- 14 no. properties delivered under HAP in November 2024.
- 3 No. property delivered under RAS in November 2024.
- Total of 1,849 active households being supported by

#### Leasing (November 2024)

- 6 STL.

#### Homelessness (November 2024)

- 6 homeless presentations.

#### Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme (November 2024)

- 412 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Applications received.
- 341 Stage 1 Approved.
- 226 Stage 2 Grant approval applications received.
- 219 Stage 2 Approved.
- 44 Properties completed

#### Vacant Homes (November 2024)

- Croi Conaithe Grant – 453 approved (79 grants issued); 121 in progress.
- Repair and Leasing – 27 active leases, 22 applications for 77 units;
- Buy & Renew – 81 active applications.
- URDF – 58 properties in the approved programme under consideration.

his directorate primarily contributes to SDGs:





## Directorate Highlights

### Fire Service

#### Long Service awards (Fire)

Eleven members of Mayo Fire Service have been honoured at the National Fire Long Service Awards and were presented with Ceremony Medals for 20 years, 30 years and 40 years of dedicated service to Mayo Fire Service.

#### Retained Fire Service

20 recent recruits to the Fire Service have successfully completed the Using Breathing Apparatus (Compartment Fire Behaviour) training module held at Ballinrobe. All are now fully qualified as Firefighters with their respective units in the county.



Pictured (L-R) are; Leonard Shevlin, John Kennedy, Chris Birrane (20 year); Tony Shevlin (30 year), Gerry O Connell (20 year), Emmet Gavaghan (30 year) and Pete Mc Donnell (40 year).

## Dates to Note

### Looking forward:

- SPC Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> December.
- Environment Workshop with ATU first years.
- First meeting of Green Hubs Westport
- Ballina Green Town Meeting
- School workshops

## Water Services, Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Services

JOHN CONDON



### Environmental Awareness:

School Waste Workshops

National Tidy Towns Awards Event in Dublin.

Waste Warriors Workshops by Eco Unesco in 8 locations county wide (Youthreach & Secondary Schools)

Rediscovery Centre – workshops in schools.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event.

Midwest Environment slot

Waste workshop for Westport College of Further Education.

First meeting of steering Group for Circular Economy arts project.

Composting Ireland programme in 6 secondary schools including 'Dumpster Dives'

### Veterinary & Dog Warden Services

"A Dog is for life, Not just for Christmas" – Christmas Campaign

A campaign is currently running on our social media outlets and in local newspapers as a reminder to people not to buy a dog/puppy for Christmas without careful consideration about what is involved in caring for it. To consider adopting a dog from a rescue, where there are many wonderful dogs looking for new homes. The Campaign also highlighted that a dog/puppy must be microchipped, registered on an approved database and where a dog licence can be purchased.

### Derelict Sites

2 properties will have completed Vesting to Mayo County Council by the end of November.

4 properties have started the CPO process and should be vested to Mayo County Council by end of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2025.

- Number of properties on the register = 252.

- Number of Section 8 (4) notices issued = 2.

"Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event Complete"

### Civil Defence: Training & Seminars

Civil Defence members in Mayo have completed certified training in the following areas recently:

Cardiac First Response - Community and Advanced

Manual Handling and Patient Moving

First Aid Responder

A delegation attended the annual Civil Defence Officers Association Training Seminar held in Kilkenny during November.

**Operations:** Our Community Support Unit and Search and Rescue Units continue to attend and support emergency and non-emergency events across the county and region, attending 82 operations/events so far in 2024 equating to approximately 2,000 Volunteer hours.

**New Equipment:** Mayo Civil Defence has taken delivery of a new Whaly 500R boat which was funded by the Department of Defence (Civil Defence Branch) and Mayo Co. Co. for our Search and Rescue Unit.





## Directorate Highlights

### Planning Data for November 2024

Applications Received:	106
E Planning Applications:	64
Hardcopy Applications:	42
Decisions to Grant:	97
Decisions to Refuse:	2
Forthcoming Decisions:	124
Formal Preplanning App:	18
Appointments at five Planning Clinics on the 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov. & 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2024:	52
Files appealed to An Bord Pleanála:	2

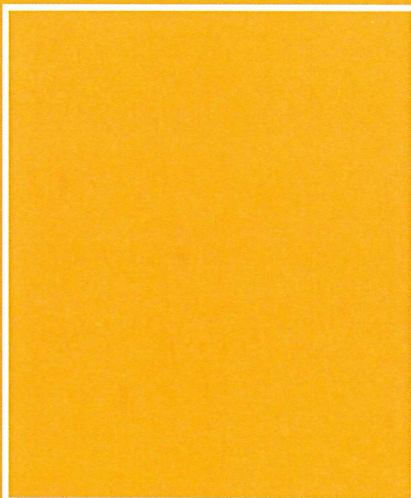
### Governance & Customer Service

FOI Requests:	10
Insurance PL Claims:	9
Ombudsman Cases:	3 new cases, 1 closed case
Total Calls Answered:	4820

### General Election – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

108,871 Dáil Electors on Current Register
+ 3,318 Dáil Electors on Balancing List
<b>112,189 Total Dáil Electors</b>
376 Postal Voters
252 Special Voters

## Dates to Note



## Planning, Human Resources, Communications, and Corporate Affairs

CATHERINE McCONNELL



### Human Resources

**New Appointments in November 2024** - 2 x Clerical Officer, 2 x Emergency Control Operator, 1 x Executive Engineer

**Promotions** - 1 x Executive Technician (Planning - GIS)

**Competitions Advertised** – Energy Officer, Senior Emergency Control Operator, Senior Staff Officer

**Shortlisted/Screened** – Pool Lifeguard Swim Teacher, Assistant Scientist

**Interviews held** - Assistant Staff Officer

**Retirements** – 1 x General Operative, 1 x Administrative Officer

### Training Data for November 2024

128 indoor staff participated in a wide number of training courses

61 outdoor staff participated in: Ride on Roller, Manual Handling (Outdoor), Driving Licence Category BE, Temporary Traffic Management Design – Level 1 & 2, CSCS Telescopic Handler Assessment, First Aid Response, Safe Pass

**Training Centre Update:** A total of 4,031 trainees' attendees have participated in Castlebar Regional Training Centre courses for the months from January 2024 with 6,643 training days.

### Corporate Communications / Diaspora / Social Media/Publicity Campaigns

• Public information updates on severe weather, traffic disruption, Water repairs, recruitment

• Media Responses to local and national Media queries. Co-ordination of all Advertising – 30 adverts placed in local newspapers.

• Supported IQ Ballina official Opening.

### Social Media/Publicity Campaigns:

Social media campaigns around the following:

• Power Up Grant • Women In Politics • Funding (ORIS) • Affordable housing Westport • Clean Air Week Competition • Library campaigns • LEO campaigns • Promotion of Christmas events

### Press Releases October 2024:

• Contracts Valued at Over €2.5 Million For Projects to Rejuvenate Castlebar Town Centre Signed by Mayo County Council

• IQ Ballina Official Opening

• Mayo County Council Encourages Schools to Join the Efforts Against Engine Idling for Clean Air Week 2024

• Pride of Place Awards

• No Idling Clean Air Week Poster Competition

### Oifig na Gaeilge:

• Completion of Heritage Stewardship Grant work to digitise recordings from the Acaill and Iorras Gaeltacht

• Provision of compliance, event and translation support to Housing, Climate Action, MD Offices, Arts, and Corporate

### Road Safety:

• Driving for Work Road Safety Talk with the company EPS.

• Road Safety Talk with Ukrainian Residents in Ballina

• Road Safety Talk with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class in Castlebar National School

• Road Safety Talk with 5<sup>th</sup> years and Applied Leaving Cert Class in St. Gerald's, Castlebar

• Organised World Remembrance Day Mass for Road Traffic Victims in Knock Basilica.

This directorate primarily contributes to SDGs:





## Directorate Highlights

- Volunteer in Sport Awards launched
- MCC in partnership with MSP, is developing a County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2029.
- **Storytime for Adults** continued in Nov in partnership with MSLETB
- **Re-Birth**, exhibition by artist James Seymour in Ballina Library
- **Fáilte Isteach**, English Classes for Ukrainians continue to be run in Ballina Library.
- Castlebar Library hosted a HSE **Baby Weaning workshop**
- **Hola** – a new conversational class for those wishing to speak Spanish started in Castlebar Library.
- Mayo Science and Technology Festival held from 10 to 17 Nov., 30 events throughout the County with more than 6000 participating.
- LCDC delivered an Education & Training EXPO @GAA Centre Of Excellence on 27 Nov, 1000 attended.
- LCDC Heritage, Environment, Culture & Language working group delivered Seminar 'The Big House; Past, Present & Future @ATU Mayo 23 Nov
- Tourism/MSP attended the IAAT Conference Killarney on 27<sup>th</sup>/28 Nov.
- Westport Library "Come Write In" event held every Wed for the month of Nov as part of the 'National Write a Novel in a Month Challenge.'

## Dates to Note

- MSP Calendar available through [MSP Autumn Calendar](#) MSP Schools Run Up to Christmas Challenge, Swimming Lessons & Better Balance pros currently available.
- Oweninny Community Benefit Fund 2024 Rest of County (Cat. 4) applications open Jan/Feb 2025.
- Festivals workshops: Approaches to Programming your Festival 29 Nov & Funding your Festival 3 Dec 2024.
- Fáilte Ireland hosting a Mayo Tourism Networking event on 5 Dec 2024 @ Breaffy House Hotel: guest speaker **Éanna Ní Lamhna**.

## Enterprise, Community, Economic Development & Tourism

JOANNE GREHAN



### Enterprise & Economic Development Unit

- Mayo Business Awards took place on 1 Nov. Minister Dara Calleary and the Cathaoirleach attended, with winners across 7 categories. The Neill O'Neill Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Intersport Elvery's.
- Minister Dara Calleary officially opened the IQ Ballina on 4 Nov with Minister Alan Dillion and the Cathaoirleach.
- Business Advisory Clinics took place in Ballina, Claremorris and Westport from 15-20 Nov.

### Community, Arts, Sports, Childcare

- Mayo County Childcare Committee processed Child Enrolment Data, Change in Circumstances submissions and delivered Fee Payment Policy actions for services across the County. In addition, Critical Incident training was provided to 18 services in the county.
- Mayo has been allocated €217.742 for the Local Enhancement Programme launched in early Nov. The applications will open late Dec/early Jan.
- Onsite: Poets Geraldine Mitchell, Martina Evans and Sean Borodale announced as part of Onsite 2024/25, a joint Mayo County Council Arts Service, National Museum of Ireland - Country Life, and Poetry Ireland Commission.

### Tourism, Recreation & Amenities

- 2024/25 ORIS launched with funds of between €40k (up to 6 projects) and €500k (1 project) available under the various measures. EOIs for funding applications currently being sought with a closing date of 12 Dec 2024.
- The Leisure Complex at Lough Lannagh awarded the Outstanding Standard in the National Quality Standard Award and presented at the Conference & NQS Awards on 1 Nov 2024.
- Two shelters and bike stands were recently erected in the Achill Sound Trailhead. These unique structures were manufactured from recycled wind turbine blades.
- Tender for the detailed design and project management of the climbing wall facility has been published, it is anticipated that the contract will be awarded in early Dec 2024.
- Achill Island Greenway - Phase 3: Landowner consultations continuing and engagement with valuers has commenced.
- Minor repair and upgrade works at the Lough Lannagh facility are nearing completion.

### Town Centre First (TCF), Town Regeneration November 2024

- Town Team Supports 2024: Completion of DRCD funded phase with Balla, Crossmolina and Swinford.
- Evaluation of RFQ for Ballyhaunis Town Centre First plan.
- Collaboration with Killala Community Council, Killala Town Team, Creative Ireland Co-ordinator and Foróige to develop Creative Ireland Residency based on youth engagement and project delivery for Cruinniú na nÓg.

### Ireland West Strategic Development Zone

- Project Manager engagement with SDZ Stakeholders continuing.
- Review of SDZ infrastructure requirements commenced.

### Library

- **Putting Your House in Order**, talks on wills, legal affairs, medical directives and enduring POA ran in Castlebar & Ballina Libraries in conjunction with The Irish Hospice Foundation.
- A talk on **Making Technology Accessible & Stress Free** in association with Mayo Science and Technology Festival took place in Castlebar Library.
- **A Genealogy Day** in Castlebar library in conjunction with North and South Mayo Family Research Centres was hugely popular.
- During Science Week two workshops entitled '**Desert Bloom**' ran in Ballina and Westport.
- Prof. Shelley Deane of the School of Law & Government in DCU held a **Cross Border Deliberation drop-in session** in Belmullet Library on 19 Nov.
- Heritage Council have invited The Jackie Clarke Collection to join the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland starting in 2025.
- The Jackie Clarke Collection was awarded a Green Flag for the 8<sup>th</sup> Year.
- Jackie Clarke Collection staff participated on the MSPI **Caring for Collections** training.

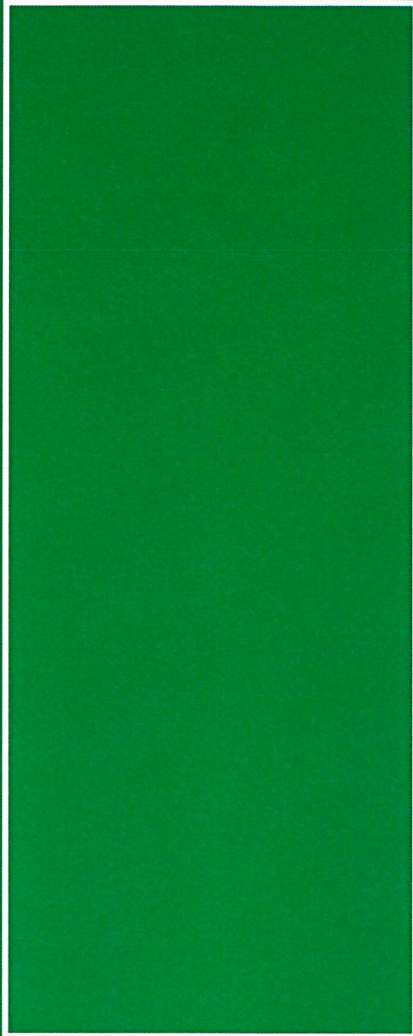
his directorate primarily contributes to SDGs:



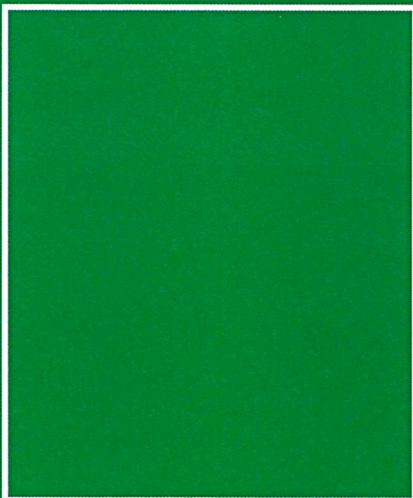


Financial Management, Information  
Systems & Motor Tax  
PETER DUGGAN

Directorate Highlights



Dates to Note



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, INFORMATION SYSTEMS & MOTOR TAX

Mayo County Council

1. Major Expenditure and Income by Division with 2024 Adopted Budget  
Ten months ended 31st October 2024

APPENDIX A  
FINANCIAL REVIEW DECEMBER 2024

Service Division	Description	EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
		Exp To Date Oct-24	Budget 2024	Remaining 2024	% Spent 2024	Inc To Date Oct-24	Budget 2024	Notified 2024	% Rec'd 2024
A	Housing and Building	28,445,559	28,725,722	280,164	99%	27,425,475	27,450,543	25,068	100%
B	Roads Transport and Safety	40,404,017	54,151,004	13,746,987	75%	33,314,603	45,628,186	12,313,583	73%
C	Water Services	14,592,082	19,437,281	4,845,199	75%	17,960,882	23,480,285	5,529,574	76%
D	Development Management	23,722,723	18,505,758	-5,216,965	128%	15,103,737	8,156,620	-6,947,117	185%
E	Environmental Services	18,085,625	21,803,717	3,718,092	83%	6,663,738	8,090,650	1,426,912	82%
F	Recreation and Amenity	12,516,315	14,675,534	2,159,219	85%	5,115,997	5,501,500	386,503	93%
G	Agriculture, Education Health and Welfare	1,632,471	2,063,389	430,918	79%	528,337	74,172	213,384	71%
H	Miscellaneous Services	13,511,856	15,792,135	2,280,279	86%	11,999,613	13,946,889	1,947,286	86%
I	Central Management/Changes	22,073,663	26,382,336	4,308,672	84%	1,484,140	1,640,000	155,860	90%
J	Rates	-	-	-	-	37,187,548	44,660,815	7,473,267	83%
	Local Government Fund	-	-	-	-	18,525,156	22,230,186	3,705,030	83%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>174,984,310</b>	<b>201,537,376</b>	<b>26,553,066</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>175,399,026</b>	<b>201,537,376</b>	<b>26,228,330</b>	<b>87%</b>

2. Performance of Local Authority Revenue Collection Levels

	Total for collection	Collected Oct-24	Arrears Oct-24	% Collected
Rents	8,374,223	7,412,254	961,969	89%
Rates	40,762,522	38,242,472	2,520,050	94%
Housing Loans	3,276,847	2,677,356	599,491	82%
Number of days in overdraft	20			
Estimated interest incurred	4,854			

3. Recourse to Overdraft Facility

Number of days in overdraft  
Estimated interest incurred

20  
4,854

4. Significant Variance against Budget

	€'000
Housing Rents/Leasing	260
Emergency Accommodation	-220
Swimming Pools	170
Leisure Facilities (Lough Lannagh)	380
Payroll	2,400
Gratuities	800
Other	35

This directorate primarily contributes to SDGs:

